Fiscal Policies :

— Customs Duty on components other than CPT brought down to a level of 50% (customs duty for CPT brought down to 75%).

— Customs duty on glass parts for CPT brought down to 20%

— Excise duty on 14", 20"/21" CTVs reduced.

— Excise duty on CG and instruments reduced.

Electronics Hardware Technology Parks :

Government has announced the Electronic Hardware Technology Parks Scheme to attract major international electronic companies to establish global scale manufacturing facilities incorporating the latest technology. This will also help Indian enterprises to attain global scales of operations and thereby enhance their product and process quality and international competitiveness.

Velocity of Business :

Action has been initiated for improving the Velocity of Business in the Electronics Industry. It aims at removing procedural bottlenecks pertaining to licensing, customs, infrastructure etc. to speed up the development of Electronics industry.

II. Infrastructure and other facilities :

Applications of Electronics :

(a) For developing awareness of quality, a network of Standardisation, Testing and Quality Control (STQC) Laboratories have been set up. Some of these laboratories are authorised to test and certify for international and national quality standards. This must help in the export of electronic products.

(b) To assure consumers' quality production, B&W TV and CTV Certification Schemes have been introduced.

(c) For exports to "Single European market after 1992", the industry is being offered help and assistance in preparation to meet the ISO 9000 requirements.

(d) Technology development projects have been initiated by the Technology Development Council, with a view to promote innovation, product design and development which are all basic for the growth of a healthy industry.

(e) Electronics Research and Development Centres have been set up to carry out R&D in well identified areas which is also a measures for developing self-reliant industrial base.

(f) A number of Centres for Electronic Design and Technology (CEDTs) have been set up in various parts of the country with the basic objective of imparting training with emphasis on aspects such as design, product development, technology and manufacturing processes with due regard to quality control, reliability, maintenance etc.

(g) Six months Service Technician Training Programme for repair and maintenance of common consumer electronic products has been initiated in 101 ITIs.

Addition of New Mission to the Series of Technology Missions

2165. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new mission has been added to the series of Technology Missions launched by the Department of Electronics;

(b) what has been the concrete outcome of the commercialising of indigenous technologies;

(c) what are the frontier technologies which are emerging recently; and

(d) whether it is necessary to launch a few more technology missions in view of (c) above ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS, DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) About 80 technologies/products have been developed through efforts of the Department of Electronics; most of which have already been transferred to industry for commercialisation.

(c) and (d) Emergence of frontier technologies is a continuous process. Some of the areas of frontier technologies are : Advanced Materials, Advanced Semiconductor Devices, Artificial Intelligence, Digital Imaging Technology, Flexible Computer Integrated Manufacturing, Photonics/Optoelectronics High Performance Computing Sensor Technology etc. Of these, four subject areas viz. Advanced

Materials, Advanced Seiconductor Devices, Photonics/Optoelectronics and High Performance Computing are covered under the Technology Missions. Technology Missions launched by the Department of Electronics are based on the review of relevant frontier technologies and specific needs of the country and industry. Since funds available are limited, the Department of Electronics is concentrating first to implement the identified Missions and no new Mission is proposed to be added at present.

Local Duplication of International Software

2166. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for allowing local duplication of international software is being devised;

(b) if so, what is the nature of the scheme;

(c) whether suggestions are being solicited from concerned NGO in this regard; and

(d) by when the scheme is likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS, DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) The policy of the Government as regards software duplication was framed in consultation with the Indian Information Technology Industry; and has already been notified vide Reserve Bank of India circular dated 29-3-93. The salient features of this policy are as follows:—

— Indian Software reproducers may conclude agreements without prior approval for software duplication with the overseas copyright holders for payment of royalty, on the basis of Indian Published Price.

— If the agreed rate of royalty to be remitted does not exceed 30% of the Indian Published Price then no prior approval is required and royalty can be paid through any authorised dealer in the country.

— If the rate of royalty to be remitted exceeds 30% of the Indian Published Price, then prior approval of Department of Electronics is required.

Software Technology Parks

2167. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a Software Technology Park (STP) in Nagpur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS, DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Establishment of The Software Support Services and Education Centre

2168. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present stage of the establishment of the Software Support, Services and Education Centre in India under the Indo-EC Memorandum of Technical Co-operation;

(b) where the Centre is proposed to be set up;

(c) what are the total finances required for the full setting up of the Centre; and

(d) the amount financed by the EC (European Community)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS, DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The Expenditure Finance Committee on 13-7-93 has approved establishment of a Software Services, Support and Education Centre at Bangalore. Accordingly, premises has been hired for locating the Centre. Recruitment of staff, furnishing of the